



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

July 9, 1934.

HUNTING STAMP BY "DING"
TO HELP RESTORE WATERFOWL

When hunters plank down a dollar for the new Federal hunting stamp at their nearest post office, they will receive no ordinary carrier of mucilage. Nearly twice the size of a special-delivery stamp, the hunting stamp shows a waterfowl scene which is the work of J. N. ("Ding") Darling, who was a nationally known cartoonist long before he became chief, a few months ago, of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"No one, however," says Mr. Darling, "is under any obligation to kill a duck just because he owns a Federal hunting stamp, nor is there any rule to prevent a man who wants to help restore the migratory waterfowl from purchasing several of these duck-saving stamps. Every dollar will be devoted to the cause of conservation."

Authorized by the recent Congress and to be issued shortly by the Post Office Department, the new stamp will be on sale at post offices in all county seats, in all towns with populations of 2500 or more, and in certain waterfowl centers. The sale of stamps will provide funds to help conserve ducks and geese and other migratory waterfowl by the establishment of sanctuaries. Everyone over 16 years of age who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have a Federal hunting stamp in his possession, affixed to the regular State hunting license or to a special certificate furnished by the postmaster if a hunting license is not required.

44-35

The distinctive qualities of the stamp, it is believed, will also stimulate its sale among stamp collectors as well as sportsmen and conservationists.

Over-shooting and the effects of the prolonged drought, the Biological Survey explains, have seriously decreased the supply of waterfowl. Drainage operations in past years have destroyed millions of acres of marsh and water areas formerly inhabited by waterfowl, fishes, and fur-bearing animals. Much of the land so drained has turned out to be practically useless for farming or for any other purpose. The money received from the sale of the new hunting stamp will be used to remedy these mistakes of the past by restoring some of this wasted land to the country's wild life and to purchase other marsh lands not yet destroyed.

Not all the money for this restoration program, the Bureau points out, will come from the pockets of the sportsmen, however, for the President, recognizing that wildlife, like the forests, is a valuable national resource, is planning to devote additional sums, to extending the sanctuary system. The stamp sale will probably provide funds ranging between \$600,000 and \$1,000,000 annually, according to estimates by the Biological Survey.